Letter of Invitation to Participate in a Research Study

Dear Student,

My name is Heidi Ancar. I am a doctoral student at the University of Arizona Global Campus. I am kindly requesting your participation in a doctoral research

project that I am conducting titled: Accessibility Challenges of Online Learning Affecting Successful Degree Completion Among Visually Impaired Undergraduate/Graduate

Students: An Exploratory Case Study. The intention is to explore how online college students with visual impairment perceive accessibility challenges and

how these challenges might influence successful degree completion for this student population. The option of distance education and online learning provides

individuals with visual impairment the opportunity to pursue higher education through using virtual classroom platforms. With this delivery method of providing

students the opportunity of pursuing and possibly completing their academic studies, the online/distance learning environment needs to be completely accessible

to these students for them to be successful in their journey of degree completion.

I would like to interview undergraduate/graduate students with visual impairment who are currently taking at least one college course via distance learning/online platforms to explore if these students have encountered any perceived accessible challenges in the classroom and if they perceive these challenges as having any impact on successful degree completion in their studies. To be eligible for participation in this study, potential participants must be:

list of 1 items

• An undergraduate/graduate college student enrolled in at least one online course at a two- or four-year college/university.

list end

list of 3 items

• Have a visual impairment that impacts their ability to access course materials/resources.

• Have experience with online learning that is not fully accessible to the student because of the student’s visual impairment.

• At least 18 years of age or older.

list end

Participation in this study is voluntary, and participants may withdraw from the study at any time without any notice. The study is completely anonymous;

therefore, it does not require you to provide your name or any other identifying information. There is no compensation for participating in this study.

If you choose to participate in the study, you will be contacted via email or telephone and schedule an interview at a time mutually agreeable to you and

the researcher. The researcher will provide information on the virtual location (Zoom) and how to access the platform. The interview will take approximately

one hour to complete.

If you have questions regarding your participation in the study, or if you seek to verify authenticity of the study, please contact the University of Arizona

Global Campus (UAGC) Institutional Review Board chair at irb@uagc.edu or the study chair, Susan Gunther, PhD, at susan.gunther@faculty.uagc.edu. To participate

in the study please contact me at hlancar@hotmail.com or call me at (678) 226-9937.

Thank you for your time and participation.

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Riley-Ancar, University of Arizona Global Campus